

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

The objection to the specification, outlined in the previous Office Action, has been overcome by applicant's amendment. The amendment supplies the parentage.

Claim Objections Withdrawn

The objection to claims 13-17, outlined in the previous Office Action, has been overcome by applicant's amendment. With respect to claims 14 and 16, the amendment cancels the claims. With respect to the remaining claims, the claims have been rewritten as independent claims.

112 Rejections Withdrawn

The rejection of claims 14, 16 and 17 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, outlined in the previous Office Action, has been overcome by applicant's amendment. With respect to claims 14 and 16, the amendment cancels the claims. With respect to claim 17, the amendment narrows the claim scope as appropriate.

The rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, outlined in the previous Office Action, has been overcome by applicant's amendment. The amendment cancels the claim.

101 Rejections Withdrawn

The rejection of claim 16 under 35 USC 101, outlined in the previous Office Action, has been overcome by applicant's amendment. The amendment cancels the claim.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-13, 15 and 17 are allowed for reasons of record.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian J. Davis whose telephone number is 571-272-0638. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Yvonne (Bonnie) Eyler can be reached at 571-272-0871. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 1621

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Brian J. Davis/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1621
4/7/08